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19th FEBRUARY, 1803.

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Read the first and second time, and ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole House on Tuesday next.

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## A B I L L

*For settling sundry claims to public lands of the United States, south of the State of Tennessee.*

1     **Be it enacted**, by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2     tives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,  
3     That every grant, deed, conveyance, or other written evidence  
4     of any claim or claims to any of the lands lying to the north of the  
5     thirty-first degree of north latitude, and south of the state of Ten-  
6     nessee, east of the river Mississippi, and west of the western boun-  
7     dary of the state of Georgia, as the said boundary is described by  
8     the articles of agreement and cession between the United States  
9     and that state, derived or pretended to be derived from an act of  
10    the state of Georgia, passed on the seventh day of January, seven-



11 teen hundred and ninety-five, entitled, " An Act supplementary to  
 12 an Act for appropriating a part of the unlocated territory of this  
 13 state, for the payment of the state troops, and for other purposes  
 14 therein mentioned, and declaring the right of this state to the  
 15 unappropriated territory thereof, for the protection and support  
 16 of the frontiers of this state, and for other purposes therein men-  
 17 tioned," shall be exhibited to the secretary of state within twelve  
 18 months after the passing of this act, and there recorded in a book or  
 19 books to be kept for that purpose, at the expense of the party ex-  
 20 hibiting the same; who shall pay to the person employed by the  
 21 secretary of state for recording the same, at the rate of  
 22 cents for every hundred words contained in each document thus  
 23 recorded ; nor shall any grant, deed, conveyance, or other written  
 24 evidence of any claim derived or pretended to be derived from  
 25 the said act of the state of Georgia, unless it shall have been  
 26 exhibited and recorded in the manner and within the time above  
 27 specified, ever after be admitted or considered as evidence in any  
 28 of the courts of the United States, against any other grant from  
 29 the state of Georgia, or from the United States.

1     SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That so much of the five  
 2 millions of acres reserved by the articles of agreement and cession  
 3 between the United States and the state of Georgia, as shall not  
 4 during the present session of Congress have been appropriated  
 5 for satisfying claims other than those described in the preceding  
 6 section, to any of the lands above mentioned, or so much of the



7 nett proceeds thereof as may be necessary for that purpose, shall  
 8 be, and the same is hereby appropriated for the purpose of indem-  
 9 nifying for, and extinguishing the claims or pretended claims to  
 10 any of the lands above mentioned, which are derived or pretended  
 11 to be derived from the above mentioned act of the state of  
 12 Georgia.

1     SECT. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the several com-  
 2 panies, (or persons claiming under them,) designated in the said  
 3 act of the state of Georgia, by the names of "Georgia Company,"  
 4 "Georgia Mississippi Company," "Tennessee Company," and  
 5 "Upper Mississippi Company," shall, upon making such a release  
 6 of the whole of their respective claim or claims, in favor of the  
 7 United States, as shall be approved of by the attorney general  
 8 for the time being, be entitled to receive grants for the amount  
 9 of land appropriated by the next preceding section of this act ;  
 10 *Provided however,* That the same grant shall be located with the  
 11 approbation of the secretary of the treasury, for the time being, on  
 12 lands to which the Indian title has not yet been extinguished, in  
 13 no more than six tracts ; that is to say, three tracts for the persons  
 14 claiming under the Georgia company, and one tract for each of  
 15 the other companies, or the persons claiming under them re-  
 16 spectively, each of which tracts shall extend the whole length or  
 17 breadth of the territory claimed by the respective companies, and  
 18 shall not have a greater proportionate tract on the rivers than the  
 19 territory thus claimed.



1     SECT. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the several compa-  
 2     nies and claimants aforesaid, shall nevertheless be entitled to  
 3     receive in lieu of the lands aforesaid, either certificates for two  
 4     millions and five hundred thousand dollars, bearing interest at  
 5     the rate of *six per centum per annum*, from the first day of Janu-  
 6     ary, eighteen hundred and four, or certificates for five millions  
 7     of dollars, bearing no interest; which certificates in either case,  
 8     together with the interest which may accrue on those of the first  
 9     description, if they shall be preferred, shall be paid out of the  
 10    nett proceeds of the sales of the lands of the United States above  
 11    mentioned, next ensuing the completion of the payment of one  
 12    million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, to be made to the  
 13    state of Georgia: *Provided however,* That the whole amount to  
 14    be paid on account of the principal and interest of the said certifi-  
 15    cates, shall not exceed the nett proceeds of the sales of the num-  
 16    ber of acres appropriated by the first section of this act, which  
 17    shall be first sold after the completion of the said payment to the  
 18    state of Georgia.

1     SECT. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the certificates above  
 2     mentioned, shall be prepared under the direction of the secretary  
 3     of the treasury, and shall be signed by the register of the treasury;  
 4     and the credits on stock standing on the treasury books, in the  
 5     name of the persons to whom the said certificates shall have been  
 6     granted, shall be transferrable in like manner as is provided for  
 7     the transfer of the public debt of the United States, and may also,



8 under such regulations as may be made by the secretary of the  
 9 treasury, be transferred, at the expense of the parties, to books  
 10 kept for that purpose, by the registers of the land offices, which  
 11 are or may be established for the disposal of the lands above men-  
 12 tioned; and the said certificates shall be receivable in payment  
 13 for any of the lands above mentioned, which shall be sold by the  
 14 United States, as soon as the said payment to Georgia shall have  
 15 been completed.

1     SECT. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That on every hundred  
 2 dollars or acres which may be allowed, in the whole, to the said  
 3 companies or claimants by virtue of this act, the proportion of  
 4 each company, exclusively of the tracts which may have been  
 5 surrendered to the state of Georgia, and of the claims called  
 6 "Citizens Rights" shall be as follow; that is to say, for the  
 7 "Upper Mississippi Company" five, for the "Tennessee Compa-  
 8 ny" twelve, for the "Georgia Mississippi Company" thirty-one,  
 9 for "The Georgia Company" not exceeding forty-five, and for  
 10 "Citizens Rights" not exceeding five.

1     SECT. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the proportion of  
 2 each claimant under each company, of the land or certificates  
 3 allowed to such company, shall be determined by the secretary of  
 4 state, the secretary of the treasury and the attorney general, for  
 5 the time being, or by any two of them; and they or any two of  
 6 them shall also have power to decide, in conformity to the princi-



7 ples of law and equity, on all conflicting claims within each com-  
 8 pany.

1     SECT. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That each individual  
 2 claimant shall be allowed to have the benefit of these terms; and  
 3 to receive for the amount of his claim, his proportions, to be  
 4 ascertained in the manner above directed, either of lands, of certi-  
 5 ficates bearing interest, or of certificates not bearing interest, as  
 6 he shall elect: *Provided however,* That no lands shall be allowed,  
 7 unless the party claiming the same shall have given notice in  
 8 writing, to the secretary of state of his intention, on or before the  
 9 first day of July next, and shall have released his claim before  
 10 the first day of October next, nor shall any certificate be granted to  
 11 any claimant, unless within twelve months after the passing of this  
 12 act, he shall have released his claim in the manner directed by  
 13 this act; and in the redemption of the certificates above men-  
 14 tioned, which may be received in payment of lands, those certi-  
 15 ficates shall have a right of preference, which shall have been  
 16 issued in favor of persons who shall have released their claims  
 17 before the first day of October next, and these certificates issued in  
 18 favor of persons who shall have released their claims after the  
 19 first day of October next, shall have a preference in that mode of  
 20 redemption over each other, according to the respective dates of  
 21 the releases made by the persons in whose favor they shall have  
 22 issued.



1     SECT. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That after the completion  
 2 of the payment above mentioned to the state of Georgia, when-  
 3 ever a sum amounting to three per cent. on the principal of the  
 4 whole amount of the certificates issued by virtue of this act, shall  
 5 have been received in specie on account of the sales of the above  
 6 mentioned lands, the same shall be paid to the proprietors of such  
 7 outstanding certificates in proportion to the amount of such certi-  
 8 ficates respectively held by such proprietors ; which payment  
 9 shall be made in the same manner as dividends of the public debt  
 10 of the United States are paid.

1     SECT. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That for defraying the  
 2 expense incident to the issuing the certificates aforesaid, a sum of  
 3 two thousand dollars, to be paid out of any money in the treasury  
 4 not otherwise appropriated, be, and the same is hereby appropri-  
 5 ated.

1     SECT. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act  
 2 contained, shall be construed to recognize, impair, or affect the  
 3 claims of any person or persons to any of the lands above men-  
 4 tioned.